

**ABSTRACT**

An internal combustion engine may comprise at least one double cylinder (17). A piston (10, 12) is reciprocally movably disposed in each individual cylinder (14, 16) of the double cylinder and each piston is connected to a crankshaft (4). The pistons preferably reciprocate in the same direction within the individual cylinders. A cylinder space (19, 20) is defined within the cylinders above each piston head. Preferably, the cylinder spaces are formed such that the cylinder spaces communicate during at least a portion of the reciprocal movement of the pistons.